



Know Your Traffic Laws

Prepared in Cooperation With the Torrance Police Department

Traffic Box Score (As of April 1)*	
Fatalities	5
Injury Accidents	123
Persons Injured	189
Non-Injury Accidents	165

* Box score of all accidents investigated by Torrance Police Department since Jan. 1, 1961

Lt. Don Nash, head of the Torrance Police Department's Traffic Division informed the HERALD that safety on the Highway does not just mean being a careful, courteous driver obeying all the traffic laws, but in his opinion should also include a safety check of the vehicle you drive.

He pointed out that a periodical check of your own vehicle would greatly reduce traffic accidents. According to Lt. Nash, if every driver would check his or her vehicle to see if all lights were working; if the brakes needed adjustment; or replacement of that old worn out windshield wiper that doesn't do the job any more they would not only be protecting themselves but all other drivers on the highways.

IN ALMOST all instances safety depends on visibility. So at you-the driver may better understand the laws that protect you the Torrance Traffic Division lists the following rules:

1. Windshields: Every passenger vehicle (except motorcycles) must be equipped with an adequate windshield.
2. Safety glass: No person shall sell or operate any motor vehicle manufactured after Jan. 1, 1936 unless it is equipped with safety glass of an approved nature by the Department of Motor Vehicles.
3. Defective windshields or rear windows: It is unlawful to operate any motor vehicle upon a highway when the windshield or rear window is in such a defective condition as to impair the driver's vision either to the front or rear.

4. SIGNS AND stickers: No person shall drive any motor vehicle with any sign, poster, card, sticker, or other non-transparent material upon the front windshield, side wings, side or rear windows of the vehicle except that signs, posters, cards, stickers, or other materials may be placed within a seven-inch square in the lower corner farthest from the driver's position or upon the side windows of the vehicle to

the rear of the driver and so placed that the materials will not obstruct the drivers clear view. (b) No person shall drive any motor vehicle upon a highway with any object so placed in or upon the vehicle so as to obstruct the drivers clear view through the windshield.

5. Windshield wipers: Every motor vehicle (except motorcycles) shall be equipped with a self-operating windshield wiper. (b) Every motor vehicle first registered after Dec. 31, 1949 (except motorcycles) shall be equipped with two such windshield wipers, one mounted on the right half and one on the left half of the windshields.

6. Condition of windshield wipers: Windshield wipers required shall be maintained in good operating condition and shall provide clear vision through the windshield for the driver. Wipers shall be operated under conditions of fog, snow, or rain and shall be capable of effectively clearing the windshield under all ordinary storm or load conditions while the vehicle is in operation.

Controls, Policies Must Start With School Board Charles Says

"The Torrance School System is a big business. You, as a taxpayer, employ about 1100 certificated personnel to instruct approximately 27,000 students and spend an estimated 12 million dollars a year. The objective is education. Are we getting our money's worth?" That question was posed here yesterday by Al Charles who is seeking election next Tuesday.

The Torrance School System is not organized to sell its product at a profit, so the normal competitive forces of the market place do not serve to keep the system operating at a relatively high degree of efficiency. Obviously, other measures of the efficiency of such a business. These controls and policies must originate with the School Board, he said.

IN A NATIONAL magazine, Dr. Hull published an article entitled "Tips for Better Board Meetings," which might more appropriately be called, "How to Neutralize the School Board," or "How to Dominate the School Board."

In this magazine Dr. Hull states, "No committees should be tolerated in any form, either standing or special." He went on to say, "As secretary to the Board, the superintendent sets up, prepares and determines the agenda. Board members suggest items from time to time. Sometimes the superintendent puts them on now; sometimes later; sometimes not at all." Last, but not least, Mr. Hull enunciated the final theorem... "No advance agendas, should be given to either Board Members or newspapers..."

The very fact that your present Board has tolerated this type of domination is a self indictment they can't ignore. No additional comments need to be made about the present School Board, Charles said.

A SCHOOL Board that will establish policies and controls, in written form, is your best protection against administrative abuse, misinformation and neglect. The School Board should establish policies that define the objectives of the school system, shape its organizational framework, provide for appropriate financial and performance controls and effectively harness the abilities of individual teachers to meet these objectives. In effect, these policies should guide and

channel the thinking of school officials, he said. Administrative efficiency can be greatly improved by specifying who is to do what, when, and where. Authority and responsibility relationships should be set forth in writing.

STAFF SPECIALISTS should be kept in an advisory capacity and not be allowed to undermine the authority of line (teaching) personnel in the system, he says.

Efficiency can best be realized by teacher satisfaction. Part of this satisfaction can be achieved by allowing teachers to actively participate in curriculum development. Also, recognition for a job well done would do much to improve morale.

A merit review program would assist in giving recognition for performance rather than seniority. Salary scales should be equal or better than pay for comparable positions on other school districts. True professional status and reasonable academic freedom should be guaranteed all teaching personnel.

SCHOLASTIC controls are necessary and must be established by the Torrance School Board. Standard course content must be established with teacher participation. Tests must be used to determine if students meet the standard set.

These standards and controls must be established for entire school district and apply uniformly throughout the district. Emphasis needs to be placed on motivating the student to learn, rather than testing the student as a rational of why he isn't able to learn. Tests ignore motivation. Students can best be motivated to learn by being challenged and by receiving recognition in the form of definitive grades that can be readily understood by everyone, Charles stated.

IF YOU HAVE nothing to hide, you don't mind exposure. The public has a right, through its elected representatives, i.e., The School Board, to know what is going on. School Board Agendas in advance of the meeting should be available to everyone. Minutes of meetings should be published. Standing committees should be established as a staff service to the Board. These committees could assist in the areas of finance, construction, personnel and purchasing.

Hanson Flays Seventh, Eighth Grade Education Policies Here

Bill Hanson, candidate for the Torrance Board of Education, told a group of Hollywood Riviera Homeowners this week that he believes many pupils do not receive an adequate education in the 7th and 8th grades of the Torrance schools.

Hanson said this is the result of an obsolete policy of treating 7th and 8th grade students the same as other elementary grade children. The present method provides only one teacher for all academic subject. He stated that as a result the students are not adequately prepared for the transfer from the child-centered elementary school to the subject-centered high school.

HANSON, stated, however, that he did not advocate separate and expensive junior high schools for the Torrance school system. Too often he stated, the junior high school system forces the students into high school academic, social and athletic patterns before they are ready. Instead, he stated, the flexible use of "teacher-teams" in our present classrooms can provide for the transition needed during these important two years.

"It is unrealistic to expect a single teacher to be enthusiastic and well prepared in all the academic subjects that modern 7th and 8th graders should learn," he said. "This method results in the teacher over-emphasizing her favorite subjects and usually neglecting the others." After all teachers are as human as the rest of us!

HANSON SAID that another serious disadvantage of the one classroom and one teacher for the 7th and 8th graders was the danger of personality conflict between teacher and student. "A youngster at this age often has strong likes and dislikes, and if he takes a dislike to his one teacher, his work in all areas will suffer," he said.

Hanson illustrated his "teacher-team" method as follows: "Suppose there are two 8th

grades in a certain elementary school. One teacher with one grade may know more about English and social studies and the other teacher with the other grade would be stronger in mathematics and sciences.

"FOR A PORTION" of each school day these teachers would trade classes, affording all of the 8th graders the benefit of the special ability of each teacher," he said.

"In other cases three or even four teachers, might participate in the "teacher-team" program. It should be the school district policy to assign teachers whose special interests complement each other to the 7th and 8th graders in any one school." Hanson concluded that his "teacher-team" method would thereby strengthen the 7th and 8th grades, which he believes to be presently the weakest link in the chain of education in Torrance schools.

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